



Pembrokeshire Coast, Wales

May 15 - 22, 2012

The trip to the Pembrokeshire Coast of Wales begins and ends in St. Davids, Wales. You can fly to London or Bristol then take the train to West Wales. After the minimum of 10 reservations is reached we will advise you to make your air travel reservations. We will meet at the Old Cross Hotel in St. Davids.

Trip Start: May 15, 2012 - Old Cross Hotel, St. Davids, Wales
Trip Finish: May 22, 2012 - Old Cross Hotel, St. Davids, Wales
Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights
Trip Cost: \$2,690 per person sharing a room
\$2,990 for a single room

(Trip cost includes everything except airfare, 2 dinners, 1 lunch, beverages, tips, and all items of a personal nature.)

Day by Day Overview

Tuesday, May 15 - Arrive in St. Davids, Wales, and check in at the Old Cross Hotel in the village center. The trip officially begins with dinner in the hotel dining room at 7:30PM, but meet me for drinks in the hotel bar at 7:00. After dinner, we will have coffee in the hotel lounge and our guide will give the details of our week's program. Most evenings we will gather in the lounge after dinner for coffee and review/preview.

Lodging: Old Cross Hotel - <http://www.oldcrosshotel.co.uk/>

Wednesday, May 16 - Walk from the Old Cross to St. Non's Well and onto the Coastal Path. Our walk takes us past the shrine to St. Non (St. David's mother) then on to Porthclais harbor-William the Conqueror came into this harbor. Along the way we will be seeing beautiful sea views, seabirds, old copper mines and earthen forts. At St. Davids Lifeboat Station we will turn away from the sea and back toward St. Davids. About 8 miles today.

➤ Dinner together

Thursday, May 17 - We will take the local bus to Pen-y-Cwm where we begin our short walk to join the coastal path. We have long views to the sea today and closer views of choughs and peregrine nest sites. Our lunch is at Solva Boat Club on the the perfect harbor of Solva. A little shopping time before continuing on the coastal path—or, if you choose, take a bus back into St. Davids for a restful afternoon. The afternoon walk follows a varied coastline taking us by an Iron Age hill fort, lime kilns, an old mill and maybe a surprise tea stop! Via Caerfai Bay, we are back into St. Davids. Today we have a series of steep hills that have many steps--you will be using your hiking poles a lot. About 8 miles today.

➤ Lunch today at Solva Boat Club

➤ Dinner on your own.

Friday, May 18 - This is a relaxed day on your own to explore St. Davids. We will have a one hour cathedral tour in the morning (10:30). Enjoy a day of leisure to investigate the shops, read a good book, or take a walk. After dinner our guide will do a slide presentation about the Pembrokeshire Coast: past and present.

- Lunch on your own.
- Dinner together.

Saturday, May 19 - A local bus this morning to Porthgain and a look around the artists' galleries there before a walk through the harbor village and onto the coast. We will have wonderful views to the west as we follow the path by old quarries, (Blue Lagoon at Abereiddy), badger sites, hill forts, and gull colonies, maybe even see some seals bobbing in the water. Our path takes us back into St. Davids. Today 9.5 miles.

- Dinner on your own.

Sunday, May 20 - A day on Skomer Island, a British National Nature Reserve managed by the local Wildlife Trust where half a million seabirds breed annually. Among the inhabitants here are Manx shearwaters, guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes, gulls and puffins! Skomer, 2 square miles in size, is a 20-minute boat trip from Martin's Haven. We will take a bus from St. Davids to Martin's Haven. Bring binoculars. 3-5 miles today.

- Dinner together

Monday, May 21 - A final day walking. Our aim today is St. Davids Head, the most westerly point in Great Britain. A pre-historic burial chamber, Iron Age field system and hut circles are sites we will visit on this headland. Our walk back into St. Davids will be along the mile-long beach of Whitesands Bay watching out for orchids and butterflies. Today 6-7 miles.

- Farewell dinner in hotel dining room.

Tuesday, May 22 - Breakfast and departure.

Please Note: The above schedule is subject to change due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

Flight and Airport Info

Getting to St. Davids—Fly from the U.S. to either London Gatwick, London Heathrow, or Bristol. From Gatwick you can take a train to Haverfordwest, Wales. From Heathrow you take a bus to Reading then a train to Haverfordwest. From the Bristol airport you can take a shuttle bus to the Bristol Temple-Meads train station then train service to Haverfordwest. The train from London to Haverfordwest takes about 5 hours while Bristol takes about 3.5 hours. Taxi or bus from Haverfordwest train station to St. Davids (15 miles).

Weather: Mild spring weather with possible rain.

Helpful Websites:

Hotel in St. Davids: www.oldcrosshotel.co.uk

Pembrokeshire Coast: www.visitpembrokeshire.com
www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk

Wales: www.wales-calling.com

Train: www.nationalrail.co.uk